

That is why, when passing the bipartisan infrastructure law, we knew, as President Biden said, “We could grow the economy, enhance our competitiveness, create good jobs, and make our economy more sustainable, just, and resilient.”

Mr. Speaker, I believe we have done that. As I explained to many of my colleagues last year, the Infrastructure of my home in the U.S. Virgin Islands has suffered extremely from systematic lack of investment. Our infrastructure issues were further exacerbated by the 2017 Hurricanes Irma and Maria, which were both Category 5 hurricanes.

When you hear that 1 in 5 miles, or 173,000 total miles, of our highways and major roads, and 45,000 bridges across the United States are in poor condition, think about what that looks like on a hurricane-prone island where residents may rely on a single road for passage of crucial resources and emergency services vehicles.

As Americans, the residents of the Virgin Islands needed us, as Congress, to step up. By passing the bipartisan infrastructure plan, we answered the call for all Americans.

To date, the Virgin Islands has been allocated \$18.4 million, of an expected \$96 million, to rebuild and strengthen our roads and bridges. In addition, over 1,600 households in the U.S. Virgin Islands have already enrolled in the Affordable Connectivity Program, which aims to provide affordable, high-speed internet to every American. That is about 43 percent of the total households on the island of St. John alone who now have access to high-speed internet.

Turning to the island’s power supply, we now have much-needed capital to weatherize our power lines, which will prevent outages and make the power grid more resilient. Put differently, we are now better equipped to save lives.

In addition to these historic investments, I would like to highlight the announcement of two key projects:

First, under our Watershed Project, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will invest \$51.7 million to reduce flood risk and damage to the Savan Gut area in our capital, Charlotte Amalie. The area is within the 100-year old flood plain and has recurring flooding problems primarily in the central business district and local elementary school. Therefore, as I am sure you can tell, the completion of this project is vital to protecting the future of our children, schools, and local businesses.

Second, in our Airport Project, the Department of Transportation has awarded nearly \$4 million to Cyril E. King Airport to support its modernization and improve safety.

There are so many projects that all Americans are guaranteed because of the work of these House Democrats, along with our President, who have put the people of America forward in ensuring that infrastructure will meet the needs of a future America.

So, today, as we celebrate the many successes of the infrastructure plan,

creating good-paying jobs, union jobs, helping fight climate change, advancing environmental justice, boosting domestic manufacturing, strengthening critical links in our supply chains, and ultimately lowering the cost of living for working families, I would like to challenge and encourage all of us to continue to work together to address the challenges of the American people, this country, and our world. Together, we can make a difference.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TERRY BARKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. VAN DUYNE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart. Over the weekend, tragedy struck North Texas as six lives were taken in an air show honoring our veterans. One victim was Texas-24 resident and local leader, Terry Barker.

Terry was the epitome of an all-American hero. An Army veteran and American Airlines pilot of 36 years, Terry spent decades of his storied and accomplished life serving others. His service in the Army and unmatched dedication to honoring veterans is a testament to the kind of man Terry was.

Just last week, to pay tribute to veterans, Terry helped set up the Keller Field of Honor: 1,776 full-size U.S. flags dedicated to the 1,776 heroes. He then took to the skies one last time in a World War II era B-17 bomber to pay tribute to the Greatest Generation.

Terry was also a dedicated public servant, spending two terms as a Keller City councilmember. My friend and colleague, Keller Mayor Armin Mizani, described Terry as his mentor, and an “outgoing and selfless man who always had a joke to share.”

Texas-24 lost an American patriot, a public servant, and beloved friend this week. I ask you to please join me in praying for Terry, his family, and all of those affected by this weekend’s tragedy.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF SERGEANT DENNIS L. PAVLIK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BACON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Sergeant Dennis L. Pavlik, who is believed to be the last living Korean war POW from Nebraska.

Sergeant Pavlik joined the United States Army in October of 1952 when he was inducted at Fort Omaha in Nebraska. Sergeant Pavlik was then assigned to B Company, the 22nd Armored Engineer for artillery basic training, which he completed at Camp Chaffee, Arkansas.

Following his completion of basic training, Sergeant Pavlik was assigned to C Battery, the 555 Field Artillery, also known as the Triple Nickel.

Sergeant Pavlik then moved to a variety of locations across Korea, finally landing near Kumsong in a location known as the Kumsong Salient. It was there, on the night of July 13, 1953, that Sergeant Pavlik’s artillery was under intense enemy counter barrage ending in the eventual imprisonment of multiple United States soldiers.

Sergeant Pavlik and his fellow soldiers were then forced to march north to a POW camp the Chinese referred to as Camp Six. It was here Sergeant Pavlik spent 42 days as a prisoner of war, which he has referred to as “the longest 6 weeks of my life.”

Sergeant Pavlik stated the most important lesson he learned during those 6 weeks is the knowledge of freedom. As the war in Korea ended, Sergeant Pavlik was then released from Camp Six and eventually returned to United States soil on August 25, 1953, just 1 month after the official end of the Korean war.

Sergeant Pavlik ended his military service on July 20, 1954, and was awarded the Bronze Star with the “V” for Valor Device, the Good Conduct Medal, the POW Medal, National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal with two Battle Stars, United Nations Service Medal, and the Korean Presidential Unit Citation.

Today, he resides in Omaha, Nebraska, with his wife, Luella, and has three children and five grandchildren.

Sergeant Pavlik also serves as the Post Commander for the American Ex-Prisoner of War Department of Nebraska.

It is with great honor that I recognize the last-known prisoner of war survivor for the Korean war, and my good friend, Nebraska Sergeant Dennis L. Pavlik.

HONORING THE LIFE OF VINCE DOOLEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my condolences to the families of Vince Dooley, legendary football coach at the University of Georgia.

Coach Dooley was a talented multi-sport athlete in his youth and played quarterback for the Auburn University Tigers.

In 1960, he married the love of his life, Barbara, and they have four children together.

In 1963, he became the head coach of the University of Georgia Bulldogs, where he led them through 1988. During his tenure, he guided the prolific football team to a record of 201 wins and only 77 losses. Coach Dooley’s teams won six Southeastern Conference championships and the momentous 1980 national championship.

As a coach, he received five Coach of the Year awards, was five times voted SEC Coach of the Year, and has now been inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.

After he retired from coaching, he remained the Athletic Director at the University of Georgia until 2004, guiding the football program and building many other athletic programs into national powerhouses.

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Off the gridiron, Vince was passionate about gardening and American history and preservation. He was considered a master gardener and had a species of roses named after him.

He was involved with many organizations that focused on preserving Revolutionary War battlefields and was inducted as a Georgia trustee by the Georgia Historical Society.

Earlier this month, I was proud to sign on to a resolution, alongside several members of the Georgia delegation, thanking him for his service to our State.

Vince Dooley was truly a pillar of his community, and his impact will be felt for generations to come.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SAVANNAH/HILTON HEAD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport on their selection as the Conde Nast 2022 Readers' Choice number one airport in the United States.

The Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport is a hub for travel regionally, nationally, and internationally.

With its small-town feel, the Main Street-inspired concourse greets travelers with a plentiful helping of southern charm. The many restaurants and shops provide weary travelers, both coming and going, with a snippet of what the First District has to offer.

I personally am very well acquainted with this airport, as I have traveled through this airport hundreds of times on my way to and from Washington, D.C.

Serving nearly 3 million passengers each and every year, the airport serves as a gateway to the First District of Georgia and its many destinations. Just a short drive away are world-class beaches, resorts, and golf courses, with the cultural hub of Savannah being foremost.

Additionally, it serves as an important cargo hub in conjunction with the Port of Savannah, the fourth busiest port in the Nation.

Despite their busyness, they excel in providing outstanding customer service and southern charm. For the third year in a row, they have been voted the number one airport in the United States.

I, on behalf of the entire First District of Georgia, congratulate the employees and the administration of the Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport for earning this distinction.

HONORING MARTIN GRIZZARD

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and service of the late Martin Thurman Grizzard of Thomaston, Georgia.

Martin was born October 17, 1938, in Hixson, Tennessee. Being the oldest of four brothers, he learned to take care of the people around him at an early age.

In 1963, he would graduate from Mercer University's Southern School of Pharmacy, committing his life to the care of others. Just 2 years later, Martin opened Northside Drugs, a pharmacy in the small town of Thomaston, Georgia.

During his long career as a pharmacist, he would serve on the Georgia State Board of Pharmacy, eventually becoming president in 1984. In 2013, his store would serve its one-millionth customer after nearly 50 years of faithfully providing care for the community of Thomaston.

Though a million seems like a large number, it only represents a fraction of the true impact that Martin would have on this world during this time not only as a pharmacist but as a philanthropist and father.

Finally laid to rest at the age of 83, he is survived by his wife of 62 years, Mrs. Betty Grizzard; his daughter, Pam; and his three sons, Martin Jr., Michael, and Stewart.

The prayers of myself and my family belong to the Grizzard family and all those impacted by this tremendous loss.

HONORING DAVID RALSTON

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the leadership and service of my good friend, my former suitemate, David Ralston, who recently announced that he would be ending his tenure as speaker of the Georgia statehouse.

David has been speaker since 2010 and has overseen some of the most historic legislative accomplishments in our State's history.

He attended Young Harris College and North Georgia College, where he earned his bachelor's degree with honors. He then went on to graduate from the University of Georgia School of Law.

An attorney by trade, Speaker Ralston started his career in public service in 1992 when he was elected to the Georgia State Senate. In 2002, David was elected to the Georgia House and was chosen as speaker in 2010.

HONORING PATRICK O'DONNELL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FLOOD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, during new Member orientation with the freshman class, which I now claim, we were addressed by the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

She shared with us the history of her post and that, in 1789, the Clerk of the House of Representatives was named as the second officer following the Speaker of this storied institution.

Mr. Speaker, I have the great privilege today to rise and congratulate one of the Nation's longest-serving clerks

of a State legislature in America's history.

Just like yesterday, when we were impressed with the history of this institution, it goes without saying that institutions like this are sacred because of the work of the nonpartisan staff, the people who pay attention to the parliamentary procedure, the quiet ones that sit next to the loud ones, the clerks of the United States State legislatures and this body.

Mr. Patrick O'Donnell lives in Lincoln, Nebraska, and he has had a distinguished career as clerk of the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature. In 1977, he became the assistant clerk. He became the clerk in 1978.

Patrick has a record of defending the legislature as a unique institution in our United States. He believes in the process and has championed the vision of Nebraska voters when the voters changed to a unicameral back in 1937.

As a former speaker of the Nebraska Unicameral, he taught me and hundreds of other legislators what a powerful and important role our branch of government should play in leading this Nation and our States.

The Founders of this country envisioned the legislative branch as the most powerful branch of government. It was clear their intent was that the people directly elected in their districts should decide where the money is spent and the policies to be enforced.

After 44 years on the job, Mr. Patrick O'Donnell is retiring now as the longest-serving clerk among his contemporaries in State legislatures across this Nation. Only a couple of past clerks have longer recorded tenures.

It is my privilege and honor on this floor to recognize a clerk that has gone above and beyond for the people of his State and been a resource to clerks and legislators throughout the United States during his 44-year tenure.

On behalf of the First District of Nebraska, congratulations and best wishes on your retirement, Mr. Clerk, Mr. Patrick O'Donnell of Nebraska.

HONORING THE JOSEPH FAMILY OF UTICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Joseph family from Utica, New York, and their dedicated and honorable service in defense of our great Nation.

During World War II, five of the Joseph brothers served in our Armed Forces, rising to the challenge to democracy and freedom and defending all free people's rights across the globe.

The Joseph brothers served in all branches of the military across multiple fronts, in harm's way constantly. Sadly, none of the brothers could return home for their mother's funeral, as she died when they were deployed across multiple fronts and theaters of combat.